

03-07-2011 02:07PM FROM Gates &amp; Creaver LLP

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T-993 P.004/006 F-170

MAR 07 2011

A31 PTO/SB/66  
Approved for use through 04/30/2009. OMB 0651-0016U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays valid OMB control number.PETITION TO ACCEPT UNINTENTIONALLY DELAYED PAYMENT OF MAINTENANCE FEE IN AN  
EXPIRED PATENT (37 CFR 1.378(c))

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Patent Number	Issue Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Application Number	Filing Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	Docket Number (if applicable)	MAR 11 2011
5,780,355	1998-07-14	08/757,873	1998-11-27	G&C 30794.256-US-01	OFFICE OF PETITIONS

CAUTION: Maintenance fee (and surcharge, if any) payment must correctly identify: (1) the patent number and (2) the application number of the actual U.S. application leading to issuance of that patent to ensure the fee(s) is/are associated with the correct patent. 37 CFR 1.366(c) and (d).

## SMALL ENTITY

Pattee claims, or has previously claimed, small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

## LOSS OF ENTITLEMENT TO SMALL ENTITY STATUS

Pattee is no longer entitled to small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g).

## NOT Small Entity

<input type="radio"/>	Fee 3 1/2 year	Code (1551)
<input type="radio"/>	7 1/2 year	(1552)
<input checked="" type="radio"/>	11 1/2 year	(1553)

## Small Entity

<input type="radio"/>	Fee 3 1/2 year	Code (2551)
<input type="radio"/>	7 1/2 year	(2552)
<input type="radio"/>	11 1/2 year	(2553)

## SURCHARGE

The surcharge required by 37 CFR 1.20(l)(2) (Fee Code 1558) must be paid as a condition of accepting unintentionally delayed payment of the maintenance fee.

## MAINTENANCE FEE (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))

The appropriate maintenance fee must be submitted with this petition.

## STATEMENT

THE UNDERSIGNED CERTIFIES THAT THE DELAY IN PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE TO THIS PATENT WAS UNINTENTIONAL

PETITIONER(S) REQUEST THAT THE DELAYED PAYMENT OF THE MAINTENANCE FEE BE ACCEPTED AND THE PATENT REINSTATE

## THIS PORTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY THE SIGNATORY OR SIGNATORIES

37 CFR 1.378(d) states: "Any petition under this section must be signed by an attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office, or by the pattee, the assignee, or other party in interest."

I certify, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.4(d)(4) that I am

- An attorney or agent registered to practice before the Patent and Trademark Office
- A sole pattee
- A joint pattee; I certify that I am authorized to sign this submission on behalf of all the other patentees.
- A joint pattee; all of whom are signing this e-petition
- The assignee of record of the entire interest

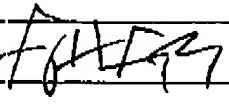
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## Patent Practitioner

A signature of the applicant or representative is required in accordance with 37 CFR 1.33 and 10.18. Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature

Signature	/George H. Gates/ 	Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2011-03-07
Name	George H. Gates	Registration Number	33500

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.378(c). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in reinstating the patent.